

British American Presbyterian,

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FOR TERMS, SEE EIGHTH PAGE.

G. BLACKETT ROBINSON

Editor and Proprietor.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters and articles intended for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than Tuesday morning.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, otherwise they will not be inserted.

Articles not accepted will be returned, if, at the time they are sent, a request is made to that effect, and sufficient postage stamps are enclosed. Manuscripts not so accompanied will not be returned, and subsequent requests for their return cannot be complied with.

OUR GENERAL AGENT.

Mr. CHARLES NICOL, General Agent for the Presbyterian, is now in Western Ontario pushing the interests of this journal. We commend him to the best offices of ministers and people. Any assistance rendered him in his work will be taken by us as a personal kindness.

Presbyterian Year Book

OUT FOR 1877.

THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

The London Advertiser says:—"We have to acknowledge receipt of THE PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK FOR THE DOMINION OF CANADA AND NEW-FOUNDLAND, published by Mr. G. Blackett Robinson, 102 Bay street, Toronto, and edited by Rev. James Cameron, Chatsworth. The Year Book is ably compiled and handsomely printed. It contains a large fund of information interesting to every Presbyterian, including the rules, forms of procedure, and provisional enactments adopted by the last General Assembly."

Mailed, free of postage, to any address, on receipt of the price, 25 cents.

G. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
Toronto, Ont.

British American Presbyterian.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1877.

THE New York State Temperance Society, and also the Woman's Temperance Union, are now at Albany opposing the Excise Bills before the Assembly Committee on Internal Affairs, and inaugurating the suppression of the entire drink traffic.

THE Rev. Dr. Cochrane gratefully acknowledges receipt of £800 from the Free Church of Scotland, in aid of Home Missions in the Provinces under the care of the Western Section Committee. The Free Church has also sent £200 for the Eastern Section, and £100 for French Evangelization.

It is pleasant to have to record that large classes for the study of Scripture are being formed in many places. Never before was the Bible made the subject of investigation as now. The International Series of Lessons has greatly promoted Biblical science. The fact of the attention of the whole world being turned every week to one special subject is most important.

STARTING newspapers is not usually a paying speculation. We see it stated that Mr. Remington, the celebrated American gun manufacturer, has had a rather severe experience. He recently sold the *Christian at Work* for \$10,000, after having expended not far from \$50,000 on it. After devoting an equal sum to the *N. Y. Daily Witness*, (Mr. Douglass's paper), he has also determined to allow that paper to get along as best it can without his aid in the future.

BEFORE leaving Philadelphia, Col. Fabra, President of the Spanish Commission to the Centennial Exhibition, presented in the name of the Spanish Government the Pavilion lately occupied by the Spanish Engineers at the Centennial, to the Presbyterian Hospital. The Commission were much pleased with the management of the Hospital, on account of the fact that creed has nothing to do with the admission of patients to its benefits.

REV. A. N. SOMERVILLE of Glasgow, who so recently enjoyed an Evangelising tour in this country, and so ably represented the Free Church of Scotland at the General Assembly held in Toronto, is about to withdraw from his ministerial charge, and to devote himself to the furtherance of the Gospel at home and abroad, but especially among the English speaking people in Foreign lands. For this sphere of work Mr. Somerville is eminently fitted.

WE understand that the Rev. David Mitchell of the Central Presbyterian Church, Toronto, has been invited to preach the Anniversary Sermons of the Central Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, on the 11th March. The St. Andrew's Society of Hamilton have accepted the offer of the reverend gentleman to deliver his popular and eloquent lecture on Sir Walter Scott, on the 18th, in aid of their charitable funds. The lecture is to be delivered in Knox Church, and an accompanying musical entertainment of a superior kind is promised. It is expected that Knox Church will be crowded, and that the proceeds will materially help the St. Andrew's Society in their benevolent operations.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY CONVENTION.

The Official Report of the Convention of the Woman's Union Missionary Association of the United States,—of which a tolerably full report appeared some time ago in our columns,—has now been published in pamphlet form, and can be had by sending to 41 Bible House, New York, for the small sum of 10 cents. As it contains *verbatim* reports of almost all the papers read and speeches given, it will be found full of most interesting matter; and the various Woman's Missionary Associations of our Church cannot do better,—in order to increase the interest felt in their work,—than order a few copies and distribute them among their members. It contains much valuable information, especially as to the work which this Society is doing among the heathen women of India and Japan, and no one can rise from its perusal without a warmer desire to aid in the great work which it is the privilege of happy Christian women at home to do for their benighted and degraded heathen sisters abroad.

TORONTO MAGDALENE ASYLUM.

As its name suggests, this is an institution founded and sustained for the purpose of reclaiming fallen women. It is located in commodious premises recently erected for the purpose on Beverley street, Yorkville; but though the present building is new, the institution has been in existence, and doing good service, for a quarter of a century. It was established in 1852 by a few benevolent ladies whose hearts were touched with pity for their fallen sisters; and had its first location in a two story house on Richmond street, whence it was moved first to Yonge street, Yorkville, and latterly to its present quarters. By these lady founders and others who have joined them since, the enterprise has been followed up with great perseverance and rendered eminently useful. The name of the present secretary, Mrs. Ewart, and that of the treasurer, Mrs. Maclellan, ought to be specially mentioned in this connection; for it is largely to their efforts that the institution owes its present prosperity. The twenty-second annual report is now before us, and manifests a very satisfactory state of affairs financially and otherwise: for example, it is very satisfactory to find that the proceeds of the work done by the inmates during the year (\$1,109.11) was nearly sufficient to pay the grocery and provision bill (\$1,201.71) for the whole establishment. It is not quite so cheering to find that these contributions from within, were not very much exceeded by the contributions from without; the total amount of subscriptions to the funds of this beneficent charity being only \$1,841.79. It deserves to be well supported, and an effort ought to be made to remove the debt that rests upon the new building. As to the work done in the way of carrying out the grand object of the institution, we will just allow the following figures to speak. On the 1st of January, 1876, the Home contained twenty-one inmates, and sixty-two were admitted since. Of these twenty were sent to service, three were sent to friends, fifteen left of their own accord, one died, four were sent to the Lying-in Hospital, four to the General Hospital, and on the 1st of January, 1877, thirty-six remained in the Home. A very large proportion of those sent to service from year to year do well, and never go back to their former ways. This is very much owing to a regulation which forbids their being sent out to service until they have remained twelve months in the Home, on trial, and under instruction; debarred from indulgence in stimulants, and from any opportunity of communicating with their former companions. But their imprisonment is voluntary; the "Home" being made so pleasant to them, that very few manifest any desire to leave it until the expiration of the stipulated period; although the difficulties which they have to encounter in getting over the first month or two must be such as ordinary people have no idea of. The one who died had been many years in the Asylum, but had been out at service three different times, always giving satisfaction, and only returning on account of ill health. After prolonged suffering, she passed away in "the sure and certain hope of a blessed resurrection." One of those sent to friends belonged to a respectable family in Scotland; and it seems that in order to express his thankfulness for the restoration of his lost one to his heart and home, her grateful father found it necessary to write more than one letter. The report expresses unmixed satisfaction with the manner in which the matron, Mrs. Aiken, performs her duties, and tenders thanks to Dr. Gaskie the medical attendant, as well as to the gentlemen who have, with so much kindness and earnestness, attended to the religious instruction of the inmates.

Messrs. M. McLeod and John MacKenzie, probationers, have received calls; the former from the congregation of Lingwick, the latter from that of Hampden.

WONDERFUL DELIVERANCE.

The late Rev. John Campbell, one of the pioneers of Presbyterianism in the Maritime Provinces, was caught in a snow storm while crossing the Antigonish Mountains. The storm came on soon after he had started in the morning, but he never once entertained the thought of turning back, and continued all day to struggle through drifts so deep that he found it necessary to dismount and lead his horse. Some time after night-fall, he found himself about half way to his destination, using up the very last remnant of his strength in the effort to scramble out of a deep gorge, in which he had left his horse, buried all but the head. Hope revived as he came to a fence and a small clearing, but following the fence he was soon filled with utter dismay, as partly by peering through the darkness and partly by groping, he discovered that the windows had been removed from the house—a very plain indication that the inhabitants had left. He now gave himself up entirely. He was to die, that was now certain, and his body was to be buried in the snow; and then he began to picture the finding of his body in spring, perhaps half consumed. He addressed his earnest prayers for help to Him who rules the storm, and in doing so gave a loud cry. To his great amazement, before the cry had little more than left his lips, he heard the bark of a dog at some distance. Proceeding in the direction of the sound, he discovered a human habitation and obtained relief for himself and for his horse. On making enquiries, he ascertained that the barking of the dog—an old useless animal—was caused by his having been accidentally shut out by his master. The good man's earnest prayer in his distress had been answered, and that instantly. And what if the answer came through the throat of a dog, it was still very welcome.

The above is but a very brief and imperfect sketch of this adventure. The story will be found related at length, and in a very interesting manner, in the pages of the PRESBYTERIAN YEAR BOOK for 1877, published at the office of this paper.

THE MISSION SCHEDULES.

Blank Schedules for the Annual and Semi-annual Presbyterian reports of mission stations and supplemented congregations, together with blank forms for the use of individual mission fields, and supplemented charges, in reporting their statistics, have been mailed to the conveners of the several Presbyteries' Home Mission Committees. Should any convener not have received his, he can obtain a fresh supply on notifying the Secretary, addressed 210 St. James Street, Montreal.

THE Central Presbyterian Church of Toronto held their second annual soiree in Shaftesbury Hall, on the evening of Thursday, 22nd ult. Tea was served to five hundred persons in the lecture room. The tables presented a very neat appearance, and were loaded with good things. Great credit is due to the ladies and especially the young ladies, who had the matter in charge. At eight o'clock the large hall was well filled. Rev. David Mitchell, pastor, took the chair, and was supported on either side by a number of clergymen. The Chairman gave a brief statement of the history of the congregation. It was organized in June, 1875, with fifty-five members. There are now 120 on the Roll. The congregation from its organization has been self-sustaining. The Sabbath school, attended by about eighty children every Lord's Day, contributed last year upwards of \$62, which was voted as follows:—Foreign Mission, \$25; Home Mission, \$15; S. S. Union, \$10, and balance to French Evangelization. The new building, which has been erected by the congregation on the old site of Knox College, will be opened in May. Rev. James Carmichael of Markham gave a telling address upon the influence of the Church upon the community. The Rev. Messrs. Usher, Dickson, Gilray, and Milligan, congratulated the congregation on the great efforts they had put forth and which were about to be crowned with signal success, and on the near prospect of opening the beautiful building they had erected, and upon the large sphere of usefulness which they would soon enter. The choir of the Church, with Mr. Stephens, leader, and Mr. Reynolds, organist, sang several admirable anthems. Mr. Birks executed a fine piece of music on the piano, and Mrs. Lawson, Miss Thomson, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. and Mr. Summerfield, and Professor Jones, contributed by song to the enjoyment of the evening. The soiree was a great success, and we congratulate the Rev. Mr. Mitchell, and his enterprising people, upon nearing the completion of their Church building, and upon the prospect of usefulness and prosperity that is before them.

Augustine saith, "If you cheerfully embrace the Divine will in some things, but in others would rather prefer your own, you are crooked in heart, and would not have your crooked inclinations conformed to His upright intentions; but on the contrary, would bend His upright will to yours."

NOISE MAKERS.

There is nothing more obvious than that a large per centage of persons account themselves to make a great deal of unnecessary noise in everything they do. How few there are who seem capable of taking up a thing or putting it down, without raising din or disturbance. They cannot sit at table without an unearthly clatter of plates and spoons. It seems impossible for such to take a chair, or rise from it, without causing some disagreeable sound. They are sure to tread upon the cat's paw, or let the book they take down from the shelf tumble on the floor, or overturn the lamp, or stumble against the chair or table, or do some awkward thing, to the great annoyance of others. The more such persons are enjoined to be quiet, the more noise they make! They are like cattle with bells round their necks, we can always tell where they are by the sound that comes from them. They are sort of omnipresent in a household. Whether running up a stair, or putting on coats, or sweeping the floor, we are sure to know exactly where they are by their awful surroundings of noise. Little do they take heed of the fact that they are universal disturbers. They seem to regard the sounds they bring forth as essential to their very life and health, like the snorting of a horse, or the shriek of a locomotive. What are they made for, if they are not to make noise is evidently an uppermost thought in their mind. One would almost think they design it on purpose, that they would charge themselves with not fulfilling their vocation, were they not smashing things all round, or that they regard silence as disturbing to the tranquillity of the human frame.

If such persons would but realize the mischief they do, they would be careful of running up an account for which there must be a terrible reckoning. We think we hear the sighs of the minister who is sitting profound in study, and all in a moment the crash of falling furniture, or the smash of crockery, takes place. What is his agony during such an ordeal? What about his nervous system? And ah! worse still, there lies the unfinished sentence, or the incomplete simile, on the page of his manuscript. Yes, we can often read in the minister's manner and in the fragmentary condition of his discourse, the disturbing elements which have marred the work of preparation? That manuscript, if diligently scrutinized, is a sort of index on which are written the din and clamor of his home. Think of what an author will accomplish, if he has to agitate over every sentence in the midst of the shocks that come upon him fast and thick from the clatter of careless house-keeping. What of the poetry that has been nipt in the bud, what of the works of fiction that have been spoiled at the first sentence, what of the mistakes and errors that have crept into calculations, into solutions of problems, into accounts; are not these legion? And what should be done with the noise makers, if they are enemies of good works to this extent? We hang the slayer of human life, we imprison the thief and burglar; but here are those who by the confusion they make, may be held morally responsible for the destruction of works of genius. What punishment should be meted out to them? Were there some island yet to be discovered, where it was possible to plant a community composed of all the noise-makers that afflict society, we should say, let them be banished thither. What a commonwealth they would make! Who should be king or queen would be as difficult to settle as the question whether Hayes or Tilden is the President-elect of the American republic. The greatest noise-maker would of course deserve the purple. On the whole we rather think well of the idea of thus banishing all makers of unnecessary sounds to some island of the seas, as there would be a likely prospect of themselves becoming disgusted with the noise, and of being converted to the love of peace and quiet.

Compare with this the charm and usefulness of those who have learned to tread lightly, and to hold firmly whatever they take in hand. There is the faithful wife, reverently guarding her husband's work, careful not to intrude when lofty thoughts are marching through the brain, watching the movement of every child, and carefully superintending her home, that quietness may reign. Look at the advantage of noiseless work in the warehouse or factory. What a fine feeling we have, for example, on going into some of our huge banks. Think of the order and the silence, and then of the important work that is being done. In such an establishment hundreds are employed, and yet nothing beyond the rapid travelling of a pen, or a subdued whisper is heard. Thousands and thousands of dollars are "passing from one hand to another, and yet silence reigns—the very stillness is felt. It was an invaluable feature of the Centennial Exhibition. To our certain knowledge there were upwards of one hundred thousand people within the

gates in one day, and yet we could wander amongst the astonishing display, without sound of hammer, or the noise of human voices. Even Machinery Hall was comparatively still. The mighty engine, which was as the heart of the moving machinery, made its gigantic strokes in silence. The vast and varied machinery seemed noiseless as the stars in their motions.

Of all places for unnecessary sounds we know of none to compare with the church. There is the habit of coughing when the service is proceeding. No sooner has the sermon begun, than some one commences to bark. By an unconscious influence, it goes from one to another, till at length the congregation appears like a great battery in active service. The preacher has often to stop, such is the persistent opposition he has to encounter. Those who are anxious to listen cannot do so for the greater guns than the preacher that are being fired off. What if the sexton be a man of noise? He is sure to rise and coal up, just in the midst of an eloquent passage. What if he have to traverse an uncarpeted aisle with creaking boots and heavy tread? Think of the snuff-taker, knocking on his box, taking his huge pinch, and handing the mill to a whole circle just as the minister is gathering himself up for a noble effort. And then perhaps a word may not be out of place for some preachers themselves, who stamp, and cry, and roar, bringing all manner of echoes from the vast deep, and making the very rafters ring with their eloquence. A habit of quiet, intense, emotional speaking on the minor key, is one which every preacher should cultivate, who desires to be persistently effective in his pulpit utterances.

Ministers and Churches.

(We urgently solicit from Presbyterian Clerks and others generally, items for this department of our paper, so as to make it a general epitome of all local church news.)

REV. JOHN McDONALD, of Winslow, has received a call from the newly formed congregation of Scotstown.

DURING the year 1876, the Drummondville congregation contributed for the schemes of the church, \$106.44, and for all purposes \$917.41, being at the rate of about \$20.88 per family, and \$12.28 per member. The Chippawa part of the congregation did still better, having contributed for the schemes of the church \$54.87, and for all purposes \$584.52, being at the rate of \$81.26 per family, and \$19.79 per member. The total contributions in the two stations for the schemes of the church was \$163.31, and for all purposes \$1451.93.

THE annual missionary meeting of the Acton congregation was held on the evening of Monday, the 19th inst.—Rev. D. B. Cameron, the minister of the congregation, in the chair. After the usual opening exercises and an introductory address by the chairman, the report was read by Mr. Ross, and a vote of thanks to the treasurer and collectors, moved by Mr. A. Campbell. Addresses having a direct bearing on missions were afterwards delivered by Rev. Messrs. Murray of Woodville and Torrance of Guelph, and the chairman made some remarks at the close.

THERE was a successful soiree held in the Presbyterian Church, Drummondville, recently. The weather and the roads being favourable there was a large gathering. The pastor of the congregation, the Rev. J. A. F. McBain, occupied the chair, and after the bountiful supply of good things provided by the ladies of the congregation had been well discussed, speeches were made by the Revs. Geo. Bursen of St. Catharines, James Little of Hamilton, Jas. Gordon of Clifton, Mr. Straith, probationer, and the resident Methodist minister. The choir of the congregation performed their part well. An interesting part of the entertainment was the presentation of a beautiful Bagster Bible to Mr. H. O. Howard, Superintendent of the Sabbath School, by the scholars. Mr. Howard made a suitable reply. The proceeds of the soiree amounted to \$58.50.

THE annual social meeting of the Duchess street Sabbath school in connection with Knox Church, was held in the school room on Friday evening, the 16th ult. The children assembled at half-past six o'clock, and sat down to an excellent tea, provided by the teachers and other friends. Rev. Dr. Topp presided, and addressed the children in his usual happy manner. Rev. A. Giffay, College street, and Mr. T. Scouler, Knox College, also gave interesting addresses. The missionary fund collected during the year amounting to \$100.14, was voted by the children to the following schemes of the Church:—Home Mission, \$25; Foreign Mission, \$20; Knox College Student's Missionary Society, \$25; French Evangelization, \$30.14. Prizes were presented to those who had been present fifty Sabbaths during the year. The meeting was enlivened by singing, and a most enjoyable and profitable evening was thus spent. The doxology having been sung and the benediction pronounced, the children were dismissed shortly after nine o'clock.